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OCTOBER 2015 IS DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Events throughout the state will support people with disabilities

Carson City, NV — October is Disability Awareness Month, and advocates are encouraging Nevadans to take time to learn about challenges faced by and contributions made by the state's roughly 375,000 individuals with disabilities.

"The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities enjoys ramping up its collaboration with people and groups around the state every October in providing support and recognition that enhance the lives of people with disabilities," said Sherry Manning, executive director of the council. "For us, it's a year-round effort but the annual Disabilities Awareness Month really drives home our mission."

Several events in northern Nevada will highlight technologies, transitions and talents surrounding the diverse population of people with disabilities. On Oct. 3 from noon to 8 p.m. at Harrah's in downtown Reno, the Disability Awareness Coalition of Northern Nevada will hold the first annual Disability Awareness Festival with vendors, music and dance, wheelchair rugby and the talents of Samuel J. Comroe, a standup comedian who talks about his life with Tourette syndrome.

On Oct. 8, the 10th Annual Transition and Technology Fair at the University of Nevada, Reno, showcases state-of-the-art assistive technology used in education and the workplace. Participants will be able to explore hardware and software through demonstrations and hands-on interaction, as well as hear speakers from California State Polytechnic University talk about their secrets of helping students with disabilities improve their grades. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Joe Crowley Student Union, Ballroom A.

On Halloween week, the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living will kick off PumpkinPalooza on Oct. 25 at Victorian Square in Sparks. This family event features a pumpkin derby, games, music, food, a costume parade, a pie-eating contest and more. Visit www.pumpkinpalooza.org for information. Then on Oct. 30 and 31, the City of Reno Adaptive

Recreation Program will host teams from the U.S. Quad Rugby Association in a two-day Reno Rumble Wheelchair Rugby Tournament at the Plumas Gymnasium, 475 Monroe St. Come support the teams at this free event.

“The activities of Disability Awareness Month go a long way toward lifting the mindset of the general public regarding individuals with disabilities, but increasing awareness of the skills, talents and abilities of persons with disabilities is not just a one-month deal,” said Kari Horn, projects manager for the Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, “It needs to be celebrated and practiced every day, every hour – in everything we do.”

For information about any of these Disability Awareness Month events, contact Mary Anne Christensen at the UNR Disability Resource Center by calling 775-784-6000, email maryac@unr.edu, or visit www.unr.edu/drc. For information about the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, visit www.nevadaddcouncil.org.

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Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
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